

occupation who left India for US every year during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per Human Development Report 2001 of the UNDP, it has been estimated that brain drain costs India \$2 billion financial loss per annum. These are very simplistic estimates and do not take into consideration a number of related factors like remittances from abroad, return of professionals with better know how, greater role of Indian professionals in growing global knowledge economy. In India, a substantial portion of growth in export of software services is attributed to this mobility of Indian software professionals.

(b) and (c) In view of the emerging global labour market for top technology professionals, there is very high mobility of these professionals. Duration of their stay outside may range from a few weeks to several years. During the last few years, it is largely the skilled computer professionals' who have been leaving the country though there were some professionals from science, engineering, medicine and accounts background that have gone abroad.

Achievements of Primary Education Programme

1435. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a primary education programme in India has achieved 60 per cent literacy overall and 79 per cent children are attending schools regularly;

(b) if so, whether initiatives in the elementary education sector have borne fruits as the overall literacy rate has gone up from 52 per cent, as per earlier Census, to 65 per cent in Census 2001;

(c) if so, what further steps are being considered to improve the position; and

[3 August, 2001]

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(d) whether Government are considering to provide qualitative and quantitative education to improve further?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Family Health Survey 1998-99, based on a sample of 90,000 household, has reported that 79 per cent children in the 6-14 age group are attending school. The Census 2001 reveals that the literacy rate is 65.38 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Though significant improvement has taken place in enrolment and retention of children in the age group of six to fourteen in elementary education, the Government has recently launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) — a National Programme for Universal Elementary Education to provide eight years of elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010. The vision of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is to provide useful and relevant elementary education of satisfactory quality for all by 2010 bridging all social and gender gaps, with the active participation of the community in the affairs of the school. The goals of SSA are as follows:

- ◆ All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back to School' camp by 2003;
- ◆ All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- ◆ All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010;
- ◆ Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- ◆ Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- ◆ Universal retention by 2010.